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men in Austria, Switzerland and Germany, and twelve in England. In Germany the college graduates take board in German families and attend the *Unter-* and *Oberprima* of a Realgymnasium; they stay eighteen months, but they must spend that time at two different schools. Before they return to France they send a detailed report of their experiences and observations to the minister of public instruction. Some of these reports which were communicated to Germans show that the young men generally maintain the most amicable relations both with their German fellow students and with the families in which they board. Their progress, furthermore, in learning the German language and in school exercises is very satisfactory.

ADOLPH GERBER.

Earlham College.

THE ANGLO-SAXON *básnian*
and *wrásen*.

The Anglo-Saxon word *básnian*, 'to delay, tarry' etc., though rather odd in appearance, is not so obscure a formation as one might at first suppose. Whatever be the relation between the suffixes of the feminine abstract nouns such as the Gothic *sókn*s (suffix *-ni*) and *usbeisn*s (suffix *-sni*), it is sufficient for the present purpose to accept the suffix *-sni* (in all probability at first developed in association with dental bases) as an extension of the simple form *-ni*. In accordance with this view Kluge in his *Nominale Stammbildungslehre* § 147 has classed the Gothic *usbeisn*s < **usbeidsn*s, *anabúsn*s < **anabúdsn*s etc., with *sókn*s, *taikn*s, *siun*s etc. Kluge has also called attention to the ablaut-variation which is exhibited, for example, in *taikn*s and *usbeisn*s. By the side, therefore, of **usbeidsni*- we may also place, as formed from the same base-group of the verb *bídan* (A. S.), the stem **baidsn*-. From this we should in Anglo-Saxon obtain **básn* > **básen* 'an abiding, a delay,' the nominal base of the denominative verb *básnian*. In like manner do we find *wrásen* (*inwit-wrásen*, etc.) < **wraidsni*- by the side of the verb *wríðan*. A verb **wrásnian* could also have been formed.

JAMES W. BRIGHT.

MODERN LANGUAGES AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND.

Readers of MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES will be interested to hear of a meeting of great importance which has lately taken place at Cambridge University, England. The Congress of the National Society of French Professors residing in England was invited by the authorities to a session in the university at which the vice-chancellor and all the masters of colleges were present. The occasion was one of importance in a variety of respects. It was under distinguished patronage, the chairman being M. Waddington, the French ambassador to England, while among those who expressed their strong sympathy with the work of the Congress we meet the names of Lord Lytton (Minister to France), Lord Tennyson, MM. Jules Simon, de Lesseps, Arsène Houssaye, and Jules Ferry. M. Waddington delivered the inaugural address. He referred with pleasure to the recognition of the Congress by the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and expressed the hope that modern languages would soon be placed upon an equal footing with classical and other subjects. Vice Chancellor Taylor emphasized the warm interest felt by the university in the study of French. The most important speech, however, was that made by Professor Seeley, the widely known occupant of the chair of modern history at Cambridge. Professor Seeley's long and varied experience and extensive knowledge make his remarks of special value. He believed that a crisis in education has arrived when it is necessary to accord to modern languages their true and prominent place in modern culture. Recognizing most strongly the value of the classics, "himself a classicist of the classics," he still thought that the needs of modern life were peremptorily demanding very much more devotion to the study of modern languages than had ever yet been accorded them. So far from believing that Latin must be learned in order to teach French, "let us," he said, "teach French in order to learn Latin." He emphasized the immense value of French literature, "a literature not less but more extensive and various than the Greek and Roman literatures them-